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**National Water Division Directors Meeting**  
**November 29 – December 1, 2016**  
**EPA Region 5 Office**  
**Lake Michigan Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Center**

**Day 1 – Tuesday, November 29, 2016 - EPA Only**

**1:00 – 1:15:** Welcome and Opening Remarks (Bob Kaplan, Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5)

**1:15 – 1:30:** Opening Remarks by Joel Beauvais, AA

**1:30 – 2:15:** **Topic One – (OW) Transition / HQ/Regional Coordination & Communication**

**Background:**

**Desired Outcome:** Discuss the role of the regions as initial issues and priorities are teed up, and throughout transition process. Carry over into a discussion of how to coordinate more effectively with the regions.

**Presenters:** Mike Shapiro

**Discussion Questions:**

**2:15 – 2:45:** **Topic Two – (Ellen Gilinsky) Nutrient “Therapy Session”**

**Purpose:** Discuss implementation of Joel Beauvais memo. Identify expectations for Regions interacting with States and identify priorities.

**Purpose:** Discuss implementation of Joel Beauvais memo. In particular, identify expectations/timing for Regions interacting with States to identify near-term priority actions that states will take to reduce nutrient pollution.

**Background:** The Beauvais memo states that “the EPA Office of Water will: . . . work with states through our Regional Offices to identify high-priority actions that each state intends to take to reduce nutrient pollution and then work together to assess progress and continue to hold ourselves accountable for achieving results.” Recognizing that states are in different places in their work on nutrient pollution, how do we make clear that we have high expectations for progress and high long-term goals everywhere, even as some states identify important next steps that may not match the progress being made in other parts of the country? It is important that HQ and regions send the same messages to the states and work together to get quicker action.

Additional background: GAO has recently opened an investigation into EPA’s nutrient program, some of their questions include:

- What role does EPA play in helping states develop and implement nutrient frameworks; and
- What measureable progress, if any, have states made in addressing nutrient pollution with this framework?

We need to follow through on this important commitment in the new nutrient memo to document progress for GAO and the public.

**Desired Outcome:** Be ready to talk to state partners the next day about: 1) the process and timing for identifying high priority state actions (where this has not been done already); and 2) our expectation that, while achievable progress over the next several years may vary in different states, our clear, long-term expectation is that all states fully control nutrient pollution.

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**Presenters:** (No presenters – Ellen Gilinsky and Tom Wall will facilitate).

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) How do we best frame our expectation for comprehensive long-term progress while recognizing that some states are likely to identify priority near-term actions that do not match the progress already made in other states?
- 2) Some Regions and states may have already identified near-term priority actions, others may need time for additional dialogue. What is a reasonable time frame to complete these discussions? By April 2017? Sooner?

**2:45 – 3:15: Topic Three – (OGWDW) Update on National Drinking Water Action Plan**

**Purpose:** Provide overview to Regions and discuss next steps on implementation of the Drinking Water Action Plan, as well as the role of interagency coordination and external partners.

**Background:** To address the challenges facing the nation's drinking water systems, in April 2016, [ [HYPERLINK "https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/04/moving-forward-for-americas-drinking-water/"](https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/04/moving-forward-for-americas-drinking-water/) ] with key partners and stakeholders to develop and begin implementation of a national Drinking Water Action Plan. As a part of this targeted engagement effort, EPA hosted meetings, webinars, and other forums with state co-regulators, tribal representatives, local governments, regulated drinking water utilities, and public health, environmental and community stakeholders on priority issues related to effective SDWA Implementation. The Drinking Water Action Plan, which will be released this year, is organized around six Action Areas that will each offer opportunities for government and stakeholders to work together on creative and pragmatic new approaches. The Action Areas include:

- Action Area 1: Build Capacity for Water Infrastructure Financing and Management in Low-Income, Small, and Environmental Justice Communities
- Action Area 2: Advance Next Generation Oversight for the Safe Drinking Water Act
- Action Area 3: Strengthen Source Water Protection and Resilience of Drinking Water Supplies
- Action Area 4: Take Action to Address Unregulated Contaminants
- Action Area 5: Improve Transparency, Public Education, and Risk Communication on Drinking Water Safety
- Action Area 6: Reduce Lead Risks through the Lead and Copper Rule

The Plan identifies a series of proposed actions in each of the six Priority Action Areas. While EPA has already commenced action in some of these areas, others will require additional resources and further stakeholder engagement and participation to initiate and complete. The Plan is intended to provide a platform for continued engagement between EPA and its partners. EPA understands that successful advancement of the plan will require extensive engagement of all relevant parties, as well as new and additional resources in order to protect our nation's critical drinking water resources.

**Desired Outcome:** Identify highest priority items for near- and long-term implementation. Identify cross-program leveraging opportunities and areas where implementation of the Action Plan can help advance goals outside of the drinking water program.

**Presenters:** Peter Grevatt

**Discussion Questions:**

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- 1) Of the Proposed Actions listed in the Plan, which do you see as the highest priority or greatest need to address, keeping in mind available resources?
- 2) What stakeholder group(s) should we target as partners for each of the Proposed Actions under each Action Area? What methods should we utilize to target and coordinate with these groups?
- 3) What additional resources can be leveraged to help address the Proposed Actions?  
What areas of the Plan will help to advance goals beyond the drinking water program?

**3:15 – 3:30: BREAK**

**3:30 – 4:30: Topic Four – (OGWDW, R5) Lead in Drinking Water**

**Purpose:** Further discuss implementation issues identified by HQ and the Regions during the ongoing review of oversight of the LCR and identify critical elements for the inclusion in the LCR revisions. Provide status update to Regions on LCR revisions process and what to expect going forward.

**Background:** The LCR has resulted in substantial reductions in lead in drinking water, however, there is a compelling need to strengthen its public health protections and clarify its implementation requirements. OGWDW's ongoing review of LCR implementation has identified a high number of water systems that did not conduct their required public education and notification of consumers about their individual lead results. In addition, many states and water utilities have told EPA that they do not have technical expertise in corrosion control treatment. Utilities also frequently have a limited understanding of the location of lead service lines and other contributors of lead in drinking water.

An EPA work group (with representatives from all ten Regions) is currently working on revising the LCR and considering regulatory options to improve the existing rule. Options include lead service line replacement, improving optimal corrosion control treatment requirements, consideration of a health-based benchmark, the potential role of point-of-use filters, clarifications or strengthening of tap sampling requirements, increased transparency, and public education requirements.

EPA has received extensive recommendations from a variety of stakeholders including the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. EPA will continue to use the best available science to conduct robust analyses of regulatory options. EPA is committed to revising the LCR and is working intensely to develop proposed revisions to be issued in 2017.

**Desired Outcome:** Identify ways to continue to ensure and support state LCR compliance, including increasing technical capacity. Obtain Regional input on the process for developing and analyzing options for proposed LCR revision.

**Presenters:** Anita Thompkins, Eric Burneson; Chris Korleski, R5

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) As we shift from our current level of state drinking water program oversight, how will we continue to ensure compliance with the LCR?
- 2) Many states identified a lack of technical capacity for LCR implementation as well as other drinking water rules. How can EPA best support states with technical challenges, such as state corrosion control expertise?
- 3) How can the regulatory revision process best consider environmental justice and children's health?

**4:30 – 5:00: Topic Five – ( ) The state-EPA relationship and approaches to oversight, NextGen enforcement /oversight**

**Purpose:** Prepare for session on Day 2 requested by state associations

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**Background:** State associations requested this topic be discussed during the meeting.

**Desired Outcome:**

**Presenters:** TBD (Mike Shapiro, Karen Flournoy, R7)

**Discussion Questions:** What is the collective message for Day 2 discussion with states associations?

**5:30 pm:**      **Networking Activity** – The Marq, 60 W. Adams (1 block north of Region 5 office)

**Day 2 – Wednesday, November 30, 2016 - EPA and State Associations**

**8:00 – 9:00:**      Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Agenda Overview (Region 5)  
- State Water Associations Introductions (ACWA, ASDWA, ECOS, GWPC)  
- Priorities and Challenges for the National Water Programs

**9:00 – 10:00:**      **Topic One** – (OW) *Transition plans for new administration*

**Purpose:**

**Background:**

**Desired Outcome:**

**Presenters:** Mike Shapiro, Craig Butler

**Discussion Questions:**

**10:00 – 10:15:**      **BREAK**

**10:15- 11:15:**      **Topic Two** – (TBD) *The state-EPA relationship and approaches to oversight of CWA programs*

**Purpose:**

**Background:**

**Desired Outcome:**

**Presenters:** \_\_\_\_, Craig Butler,

**Discussion Questions:**

**11:15 – 12:30:**      **\*\*\*LUNCH** (on your own)\*\*\*

**12:30 – 1:30:**      **Topic Three** – (OGWDW) *Update on National Drinking Water Action Plan*

**Purpose:** Provide overview of Drinking Water Action Plan and discuss next steps on plan implementation, as well as the role of EPA's external partners.

**Background:** To address the challenges facing the nation's drinking water systems, in April 2016, [ [HYPERLINK "https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/04/moving-forward-for-americas-drinking-water/"](https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/04/moving-forward-for-americas-drinking-water/) ] with key partners and stakeholders to develop and begin implementation of a national Drinking Water Action Plan. As a part of this targeted engagement effort, EPA hosted meetings, webinars, and other forums with state co-regulators, tribal representatives, local governments, regulated drinking water utilities, and public health, environmental and community stakeholders on priority issues related to effective SDWA Implementation. The Drinking Water Action Plan, which will be released this year, is organized around six Action Areas that will each offer opportunities for government and stakeholders to work together on creative and pragmatic new approaches. The Action Areas include:

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The Plan identifies a series of proposed actions in each of the six Priority Action Areas. While EPA has already commenced action in some of these areas, others will require additional resources and further stakeholder engagement and participation to initiate and complete. The Plan is intended to provide a platform for continued engagement between EPA and its partners. EPA understands that successful advancement of the plan will require extensive engagement of all relevant parties, as well as new and additional resources in order to protect our nation's critical drinking water resources.

**Desired Outcome:** Identify opportunities and partnerships for implementing the Drinking Water Action Plan.

**Presenters:** Peter Grevatt

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Are there specific Proposed Actions for which you would like to partner to address?
- 2) What new technologies or approaches are available to help in undertaking the Proposed Actions?
- 3) What additional resources can be leveraged to help address the Proposed Actions?

**1:30 – 2:30: Topic Four – (OGWDW/OST) CWA-SDWA collaboration and coordination in light of contaminants that threaten sources of drinking water: What does it mean?**

**Purpose:** Expand on previous discussions on CWA-SDWA linkages and identify new opportunities and priority efforts focused on the protection of drinking water sources.

**Background:** As we face growing risks to water quality and availability, source water protection stands as an important frontline strategy for addressing priority challenges, in particular, emerging and unregulated contaminants from industrial and nonpoint sources, nutrients, and the impacts of extreme weather events such as severe flooding and persistent drought. Industrial activities, and the contaminants they discharge, are constantly evolving. Nutrients remain one of the greatest challenges to our Nation's water quality and presents a growing threat to public health and local economies - contributing to toxic harmful algal blooms, contamination of drinking water sources, and costly impacts on recreation, tourism and fisheries. Nutrient pollution comes from diverse sources, including Publically Owned Treatment Works, livestock operations, fertilizers, and stormwater runoff. Addressing this issue requires strong partnerships as well as locally tailored assistance. We also need to systematically link Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act activities. Clean water and drinking water programs have already made considerable strides through the work of the national Source Water Collaborative, CWA-SDWA Coordination Toolkit, regional workshops across the country, nutrient permitting actions, and data-sharing tools like the Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters. We can build on these efforts.

**Desired Outcome:** Identify and develop next steps on priority source water protection efforts. Identify opportunities for CWA-SDWA linkages which highlight the protection of drinking water sources.

**Presenters:** Anita Thompkins; Betsy Behl

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**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) What are some next steps to make a more holistic and coordinated approach between CWA and SDWA programs?
- 2) How can we utilize the current drinking water protection focus in our country to advance source water protection efforts?
- 3) What partners should we added to our discussions?

**2:30 – 3:00: BREAK**

**3:00 – 3:30: Topic Five – (OWOW) Nutrient Reduction Memorandum – Next Steps**

**Purpose:** What are the key next steps for states and EPA? In particular, what is a reasonable time frame for Regions and states to have dialogue and identify near-term priority actions for reducing nutrient pollution (where this work has not already been done)?

**Background:** The new nutrient memo to the states calls for renewed attention to nutrient reductions, with a focus on public health. We also have some technical assistance dollars to kick start work and share innovation.

**Desired Outcome:** Have a robust discussion of the best way to work with the states to identify priorities and help further nutrient reduction frameworks.

**Presenters:** Ellen Gilinsky, ACWA?

**Discussion Questions:** Some Regions and states may have already identified near-term priority actions, others may need additional dialogue. What is a reasonable time frame to identify near-term priority actions? By April 2017? Sooner? How can EPA best help states make progress?

**3:30 – 4:30: Topic Six – (OWM/OGWDW) Water Infrastructure Financing for Communities in Need**

**Purpose:** Review the power and reach of the SRF funds to assist Communities in Need. Discuss (a) challenges facing disadvantaged communities in securing affordable funding and revenues for system sustainability and service debt obligations and (b) state and federal efforts, such as identifying disadvantaged communities and innovative uses of SRF funds to assist household affordability challenges or build system capacity, to address funding needs of economically challenged communities with available state and federal resources

**Background:** Too often vulnerable, overburdened and economically distressed communities face a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences. They may face a variety of problems such as aging, antiquated or inadequate drinking water and wastewater infrastructure; insufficient training for water system and sewage treatment operators; gaps in water system technical, managerial and financial expertise; and difficulties obtaining financing from traditional lenders.

State and federal agencies are engaged in a variety of initiatives that provide financing or other tools to help these communities to 1) develop water system technical, managerial and financial capacity and wastewater utility sustainability and 2) address funding and financing needs for infrastructure planning, design and construction. In addition, water system partnerships, established as mutual arrangements between two or more community water systems, can provide opportunities for systems to collaborate

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on compliance solutions and operations and maintenance activities, and to share costs with other nearby systems.

**Desired Outcomes:** Discuss and identify financing opportunities. Discuss importance of funding examples.

**Presenters:** Maria Lopez-Carbo (OGWDW) and Sonia Brubaker (OWM);  
Marty Suuberg (INVITED), ECOS Vice-Chair

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) What approaches have worked at the local or state level to improve system sustainability?
- 2) What partners can help?

**4:30 – 5:00: Q&As with Office of Water Office Directors and Wrap Up**

**5:45: Networking Activity** – Haymarket Pub & Brewery, 737 W. Randolph (2 blocks north of Crowne Plaza hotel)

**Day 3 – Thursday, December 1, 2016 - EPA Only**

**8:00 – 8:15:** Overview of Morning Session (Chris Korleski, Region 5 WDD)

**8:15 – 9:00: Topic One – (OST) Lake Nutrient Criteria**

**Purpose:** Bring regions up to speed on the work, discuss issues worked through the workgroup, and implementation process and guidance and next steps in the process.

**Background:**

**Desired Outcome:**

**Presenters:**

**Discussion Questions:**

**9:00 – 10:00: Topic Two – (OWM, OWOW) Community solutions for stormwater management**

**Purpose:** Engage Regions in discussion about tools/approaches to foster communities' desire to develop long-term plans to manage stormwater that supports the community's goals.

**Background:** OW recently launched a new, voluntary program to help communities develop long-term stormwater management plans. The three-part program includes a planning guide to walk communities through the process of developing a long-term stormwater plan, an online toolkit (to be released fully next year) that provides federal resources to assist in working through the steps in the guide and technical assistance to help five communities develop long-term stormwater plans and serve as national models. The communities will also ground test both the planning guide and a beta version of the on-line tool.

The new program is intended to help communities consider and strategically invest in stormwater controls that can be integrated into other community development and capital improvement efforts. The long-term planning effort will also allow communities to expand their stormwater control efforts beyond only water quality to reduce flooding, enhance water supplies and improve the overall resiliency of their water infrastructure network. The funding available to these projects will increase when FEMA, DOT and other federal priorities are considered in the planning process.

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**Desired Outcome**

To reduce the existing and persistent stormwater pollution from urban areas and aid new developments in limiting new contributions of stormwater pollution. The long-term planning horizon and the opportunity it affords communities to integrate stormwater controls into other community projects aims to find the most cost-effective approaches to building stormwater infrastructure.

This effort builds upon the existing integrated planning framework and provides another opportunity for HQs and the Regions to explore how best to promote comprehensive, strategic planning as part of the permitting process. Engagement and partnerships with state and local governments will be critical to translating long-term plan elements into actionable and measurable permit requirements – EPA has already engaged our state partners on the technical assistance effort.

**Presenters:** Deborah Nagle

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Beyond the five pilot communities, how can we encourage broader interest from more communities?
- 2) What tools/messaging/materials would be useful to help promote why “retention is the preferred method for managing stormwater” and who is the target audience to best affect change in how a community manages stormwater?
- 3) How do we ensure necessary collaboration with our state and local partners?
- 4) Is it possible for us to help communities more effectively tap into other federal funds and utilize the SRF for planning?
- 5) How can we coordinate TMDLs containing Stormwater WLAs with the long-term planning effort?

**10:00 – 10:30: BREAK**

**10:30 – 11:30: Topic Three – (OWM, OGWDW) *Water Infrastructure Financing for Communities in Need***

**Purpose:** Develop Actions Items/Next Steps in response to several topics covered during Day 2 Financing Session held with EPA & States.

**Background:** Follow-Up discussion in response to Day 2 session with the states

**Desired Outcome:**

**Presenters:**

**Discussion Questions:**

**11:30 – 12:00: Round Robin/Hot Wash**

**12:00 – 12:30: Wrap Up and Next Steps**

**12:30: ADJOURN**

**\*\*\*\*OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP: USDA Forest Service Hosts Tour of Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership Location.**

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